

Whitehall

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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- 7 JUL 1939

A.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Hay Urban District.

1938.

ISSUED JUNE, 1939.

HAY:

H. R. GRANT & SON, PRINTERS.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF HAY, BRECONSHIRE.

To the Chairman and Members of the
HAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

JUNE, 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your information my ANNUAL
REPORT for the year 1938.

W. W. WILSON, M.B.

13 Broad Street,
HAY.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. W. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.,
Physician to Isolation Hospital.
Telephone: Hay 13.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

Wm. D. Morgans, Cert. R.S.I.,
And Special Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute in Inspec-
tion of Meat and other Foods.
Telephone: Hay 79.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	372
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1938				1,362
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1938, according to				
Rate books	...	..	...	444
Rateable Value	...	..	...	£6,174
Sum represented by a penny rate		...		£23 4s. 11d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There are no large industries in the Town, and the occupation of the inhabitants in such as is consistent with the small industries of a Market Town in an agricultural district. No occupation has an adverse influence on public health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1000 estimated resident population 19.08
Live Births { Legitimate	26	15	11	
{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Still Births { Legitimate	1	1	0	Rate per 1000 births
{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	(Live & Still Births)
				37.03
Deaths - - -	25	7	18	Death-rate per 1000 estimated population 18.3
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :		Deaths		Rate per 1000 total (live & still births).
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis		0		0
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes		0		0
Total		0		0
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :				
All infants per 1000 live births	...		...	76.9
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births				76.9
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...		...	1
Deaths from Measles „ „	...		...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...		...	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...		...	0

*Section B.***GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.***(a) Laboratory Facilities.*

Arrangements are made with the Hereford County Laboratory for Bacteriological examination of Swabs and Sputa. Specimens of sputa can also be examined under arrangements with the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There is no local Ambulance in the District. Ambulances at Hereford and Brecon are available.

(c) Nursing.

No changes have taken place in Nursing arrangements in the District.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

An Ante-natal and Infant Welfare Clinic for this District was opened in the beginning of the year.

(e) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.

The Isolation Hospital provided by your Council has proved adequate for cases of Infectious diseases which cannot properly be isolated at home.

*Section C.***SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****1 (i.) Water.**

It is understood that the Council have now drawn up a Scheme for the improvement of the Llangwathan source of supply, which now awaits a Ministry of Health Inquiry. The polluted tributary of this source was cut off and improvement carried out at the intake chambers. Two temporary sand filters were constructed and the supply was then connected to the main supply during the dry season. In January the Hay Common Waterworks Filter-bed was thoroughly cleaned and the filtering medium thoroughly washed. The quantity remains as in previous years and it was found necessary to restrict the supply during the Summer months.

(ii.) Drainage and Sewerage.

No further advance has been made in the scheme of Sewage Disposal during the year. Approximately 50 feet of old stone sewer in the centre of the Town was replaced by stoneware pipes together with a flushing chamber.

2. Rivers and Streams.

Some pollution of the Dulais Brook, near Newport Terrace still takes place and verbal notices to suspected offenders, together with the co-operation of the neighbouring authority is slowly bringing about the desired result.

3 (i) Closet Accommodation.

The four Pail Closets situated in the outlying parts of the District are at such a level as to prevent their being connected with the main sewerage system. With proper supervision little nuisance is created with this type of accommodation.

(ii.) Public Cleansing.

House and Trade refuse is collected twice weekly under a working arrangement with a Local Contractor. The amount of Trade Refuse has increased considerably and a charge is now made for the collection of this type of refuse. "Controlled Tipping" is being carried out at the Refuse Tip and little nuisance is created. The Refuse Vehicle now used for the collection of the Refuse is becoming dilapidated and I would suggest an improvement in this direction.

(iii.) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of Inspections made.

As a Result of Notifiable Infectious Disease	...	...	18
As a Result of Complaints	...	..	15
Slaughterhouses	...	...	80
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	40
Factories and Workshops	...	...	37
Schools	...	...	5

Inspections made under the Public Health Acts and Bye-laws.

To clear obstructed Drains	...	...	18
To repair defective Drains	...	...	6
Defective W.C. Pans and Flushing Apparatus...	...	...	10
To provide proper Earth Closet	...	...	1
To cleanse filthy and dirty W.C.	...	...	5
To cleanse Pail Closets	...	...	3
To cleanse Cesspools	...	...	2
To repair defective Cesspool	...	...	1
To cleanse Manure Pit and Stables	..	...	10
To cleanse Verminous Premises	...	...	1
To cleanse Pig-styes	...	...	2
To whitewash and cleanse Bakehouse	...	...	9
To whitewash and cleanse Cowshed	...	...	12
Defective Troughing and Downspouts	...	...	7
Insufficient Paving to Backyards	...	...	4
Water Supply, Defective, etc.	...	..	12
To remove foul accumulations	...	...	5
Surface Water Drainage	...	...	4
Investigating Complaints of Dampness	...	...	5

Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	...	...	...	4
Choked Watercourses ...	...	...	...	1
Pollution of River and Streams ...	...	...	...	6
Dangerous Walls ...	...	...	...	1
Rat Infestation ...	...	...	...	3
Inspection of Fried Fish Shops ...	...	...	...	5
Inspections under Shops Act ...	...	...	...	23
Complaints <i>re</i> keeping of Animals ...	...	...	...	1
Cleansing of filthy Premises ...	...	...	...	1
Public Conveniences and Urinals ...	...	...	...	4
Unsound Food ...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance on Highway ...	...	...	...	1
Total Inspections made ...				354

Result of the above Inspections :

Nuisances detected ...	...	...	...	90
Informal Notices served ...	...	...	...	15
Abatement (Statutory) Notices served ...	...	...	...	1
Verbal Notices given ...	...	...	...	84
Written Notice under the Factory and Workshop Act and P.H. Act, 1936 ...	...	...	...	2
Notice of wasting Water ...	...	...	...	2
Premises Disinfected ...	...	...	...	11
Premises Disinfested ...	...	...	...	1

Of the above, 89 were abated leaving 1 yet to be dealt with.

Length of new drain tested ... 50ft.

(iv.) Shops and Offices.

Twenty-three visits of inspection under the Shops Act 1912—1936 have been made and the Sanitary Conveniences, Washing Facilities, Ventilation and Heating appear adequate.

(v.) Camping Sites.

No Sites were made use of in the District during the year, although ground is available. No licences were issued.

(vi.) Smoke Abatement.

There are no manufactories or industries liable to give rise to smoke nuisance and no action has been found necessary.

(vii.) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Public or Private Swimming Baths in the District. A pool in the River Wye is made use of by the Public and no action has been taken to ensure the purity of the water.

(viii.) Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

	Infested.	Disinfested.
Number of Council Houses ...	0	0
Number of other Houses ...	1	1

Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority upon discovery or report of infested premises. Sulphur candles are used in

the disinfection of premises and advice is given to tenants regarding cleansing and the prevention of infestation.

4. **Schools.**

The three Schools have been periodically inspected and the Water Supply and Lavatory Accommodation are sufficient. The W.C. Accommodation at the Council School does not appear to provide for separate accommodation in each convenience and it is hoped to alter the existing type in the near future.

Factories.

There are 25 Factories under the Factories Act, 1937, on the Register. Eight are Factories where mechanical power is used.

Workshops registered as Factories during the year 1

Deletions from Factory Register 1

Two written Notices have been served. One to provide proper Sanitary Convenience and the other for screening and improvements to existing W.C. Accommodation. Verbal Notices have been given for the cleansing and limewashing of the premises at the Statutory periods.

Section D.

HOUSING.

1. **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	48
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	91
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	20
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	23
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	2

2. **Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	0
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3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:** (a.)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	0
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(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b.)—	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	8
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c.)—	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(d.)—	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part iv.—Overcrowding :—	
(a.)—	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	11
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	61
(b.)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c.)—	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	12
(d.)—	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e.)—	The Council's scheme for the erection of 12 non-parlour type houses will, it is hoped, relieve the above overcrowding.	

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**(a) Milk Supply.**

Number of persons registered during the year as

Milk Retailers	...	...	...	1
Number of Dairies erected	...	...	...	0

There are in the District three Premises registered where Milk is produced and 7 registered purveyors. No designated milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 is produced in the Area.

There is an adequate supply of Milk for the District. Eight samples of Milk were submitted for Bacteriological examination and with the exception of one sample all reached a high standard of purity. The dirty sample was produced in the District and the Producer warned. A further sample from this source showed improvement. No samples were taken for Tubercle Bacilli Examination.

Periodical visits have been made to all Cowsheds and Dairies and the general cleanliness has been maintained. The structure of the Cowshed buildings still leaves much to be desired and the Cowkeepers are being pressed to improve them.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

96 visits of inspection have been paid to the two Licensed Slaughterhouses and Notices have been given for the limewashing and cleansing at the Statutory period.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (Approx.) ...	176	50	60	564	145
Number Inspected ...	147	43	35	400	120
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>					
Whole Carcase condemned ...	...	...	...	3	...
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	20	...	17	10
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	16 ⁰ / ₀	49 ⁰ / ₀	...	4 ⁰ / ₀	8 ⁰ / ₀
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned ..	..	...	...	...	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	5
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	...	...	...	...	5 ⁰ / ₀

Twelve visits of inspection have been made at Meat Shops. Shops, Stalls and Vehicles have been found satisfactory. Notice was given in two cases for the cleansing of vehicles.

(c) **Adulteration, &c.**

Sampling and action under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 1928, is carried out by the County Authority.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological examination of Food.**

Milk Samples for Bacteriological examination are forwarded to the Agricultural Department University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Section F.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

General—

There was a mild epidemic of Scarlet Fever during November and December which necessitated closure of the Schools for a short period.

There are no facilities for the disinfection of articles of clothing of persons exposed to infection other than those which can be carried out in their homes.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during 1938—**

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	7	1
Pneumonia	2	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

There have been no new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. There have been no deaths attributed to this cause.

It has not come to my knowledge that any person suffering from Tuberculosis has not been notified.

No actions have been required under Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925; nor under Sec. 62 Public Health Act, 1925.





